



➤ Cover of the book 'I am not the Village Rooster'.

## Kalimat Group launches inspiring tales for children

### SHARJAH

Reading initiative launched to encourage young generations make the most of their leisure time

To encourage wise utilisation of time and bring family members together around a book during Ramadan, award-winning UAE publisher Kalimat Group has launched their 'Ramadan's Book Library from Kalimat' initiative, providing young readers with a selection of 30 thrilling and inspiring stories in Arabic from its wide-ranging catalogue of quality children's literature.

Celebrating the spirit of the holy month, this special library has been curated by the publisher to promote good values and learning, develop awareness and empathy, and ignite young imaginations.

The insightful and endearing tales from the collection include:

**WORLD FEAST:** The story, written by Moemen Helmy and illustrated by Martina Gianlorenzi, instils in children a sense of responsibility towards the world they live in by making them think of ways to make it a better place. The protagonist is a child who surprises everybody by revealing his desire to become a chef when he grows up. He believes he can change the world for the better as he invites people from across the globe to sit

at one table, enjoy the special meal he creates using a special recipe, and forget their problems.

**I AM NOT THE VILLAGE ROOSTER:** Every time Samir's little brother annoys him, he yells loudly making his brother cry. Samir's mother is displeased by his bad temper and resorts to a trick to help him control it. She tells him that he looks like Ghadban, a terrifying screaming rooster, when angry. Not wanting to look like Ghadban, Samir starts controlling his temper. The elaborate description of Samir's transformation makes the story amusing and teaches children that a bad temper should be controlled. The story is authored by Salma Koraytem and illustrated by Sylvia Vivanco.

The stories are all meant to teach love, kindness, patience, honesty, and other humanistic values in the holy month, which is also a time for self-introspection and empathy with the less privileged.

**COTTON CLOUD:** This story is about a gifted boy who can fly but only when no one is watching. The boy closes his eyes and flies far and high until he reaches the cotton clouds; he swims

in them all day until he gets tired and goes to sleep. Authored by Nahla Ghandour and illustrated by Francesca Cosanti, Cotton Cloud is an entertaining story that provokes children's thoughts and imagination.

**CORAL REEF:** Written by Reem Al Gurg and illustrated by Rocio Alejandro, the story is about Chef Zafoor, a seahorse who is meticulous about his recipes. One day his assistant falls sick, and Farhan the octopus comes as the substitute. The story, which goes on to prove that new recipes and culinary methods can be rewarding, appeals to children as the sea creatures in it mimic humans.

**AUNT OSHA:** Authored by Fatima Sharafeddine and illustrated by Hanane Kai, the story is in the form of a poem and follows Aunt Osha, a woman whose nonstop chatter irritates people and causes commotion every day. However, when she goes missing for four days, they become concerned and visit her home to find her ill and lonely.

**THE CAMEL IN THE SUN:** Inspired by a Hadith, the story authored by Griffin Ondaatje and il-

lustrated by Linda Wolfgruber is about a camel that is mercilessly starved and overworked by its owner. The animal's suffering continues until Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) sees it standing under the blazing sun while its owner is resting in the shade. Saddened, the Prophet comforts the camel and then rebukes the owner, who immediately begins to take good care of it. The story teaches children to be compassionate and mindful of the suffering of others.

**ADEL'S COLOURED BIRDS:** Adel loves making birds from coloured paper. When he is at it, nothing can distract him until the red light on his room door flashes, signalling meal time. As soon as Adel walks into the dining room, the reader learns that Adel is deaf, for he starts communicating with his family using sign language. The story written by Fatima Sharafeddine and illustrated by Sara Sanchez teaches children that hearing loss does not hinder communication, and that deaf people can lead normal lives and practise their hobbies.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

## Dubai Police host Iftar party for elders

**DUBAI:** The Dubai Police General Command, in collaboration with DHA, has recently organised a mass Iftar for senior citizens at the Seniors' Happiness Centre in Al Mamzar to spread happiness among this valuable category.

Brigadier Dr Saleh Abdullah Murad, Director of the General Department of Human Resources, stressed that the event, which they launched with Dubai Police's community-based initiative 'Positive Spirit', reflects the importance of solidarity, community cohesion and giving back to this important group of society whose members contributed to building the country and its prosperity.

Brig. Murad confirmed that the event has contributed to creating a joyful spiritual atmosphere in which the most significant forms of cohesion, solidarity and sympathy are embodied.

As part of Dubai Police's campaign 'An Accident-Free Ramadan', Brigadier Saif Muhair Al Mazroui, Director of the General Directorate of Traffic in Dubai Police, added that they had distributed 63,800 Iftar meals during the first ten of Ramadan to fasting motorists on roads at sunset before Al-Maghrib prayer to alleviate the sunset rush and raise drivers' awareness of safe driving.

Colonel Turki Bin Faris, Director of the Command and Control Centre in the General Department of Operations in Dubai Police, said during the first ten days of the Holy Month of Ramadan, they recorded 2,569 traffic reports and received 158,380 calls via the emergency number (999), and 21,865 calls via the (901) call centre.

He further indicated that the (901) call centre in the General Department of Operations also



handled 2,456 emails and 2,917 inquiries via the "live chat" service available on the Dubai Police website.

Colonel Bin Faris urged the public not to hesitate to reach Dubai Police via the emergency number (999) or the 'SOS' service via Dubai Police App in cases of emergency. Otherwise, the force strictly advises the emirate's citizens and residents to call 901 for non-emergencies and general inquiries.

➤ The Dubai Police organised a mass Iftar for senior citizens at the Seniors' Happiness Centre in Al Mamzar.

The Dubai Police have called on motorists to abide by traffic rules, especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan, and show patience and re-

straint with other drivers during hours before Iftar.

According to Brig. Al Mazroui, they recorded the death of three during the first ten days of Ramadan and the injury of 34 others in 47 different traffic accidents, compared to one death and 23 injuries in 29 accidents during the same period last year.

Gulf Today, Staff Reporter

## Electronic Security Center launches Cyber Node

**DUBAI:** Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC), part of Digital Dubai, has announced the launch of the Cyber Node initiative, in partnership with Thales Group, a global leader in cybersecurity technologies and data protection. The new initiative aims to develop an advanced and specialised cyber-workforce that fosters innovation, supports digital economic growth and contributes to the development of new technologies. Cyber Node is the first initiative under the Dubai Cyber Innovation Park, which was launched earlier this year during GISEC 2022.

The launch of Cyber Node comes as a result of DESC's continuous efforts to achieve the objectives of Dubai's Cyber Security Strategy, which focuses on building a cyber smart society.

Cyber Node provides the necessary ecosystem for increasing the skills of the cyber workforce, in addition to protecting Dubai's critical information infrastructure from ever-changing cyber risks. Cyber Node will become a hub for cyber experts from the public and private sectors, as well as academic institutions.

Commenting on the launch of the new initiative, Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Director General of Digital Dubai said, "DESC's latest initiative, Cybernode, is in line with the objectives of Dubai government and the aspirations of the wise leadership for Dubai to be a global model for a digital lifestyle. Nowadays, cybersecurity emerges as one of the challenges we seek to include in the comprehensive digital life we aspire for. Cyber Node initiative is important in this regard. We at DDA are proud to join efforts with DESC and foresee a future full of digital transformations. Cyber Node, the result of a strategic partnership with an international company like Thales, is now in full readiness to welcome cybersecurity experts, academics, and graduates aspiring to be part of an advanced cybersecurity hub".

On his part, Yousef Al Shaibani, Director General of the Dubai Electronic Security Center, said, "This partnership with Thales comes as part of our efforts to equip Dubai's cyber professionals and citizens with the right skills and provide training programs that meet the highest international standards."

WAM

## Abu Dhabi's coffee culture enriches Emirati legacy

**ABU DHABI:** Roar, the boutique interior design studio, has imagined a minimalist, texture-driven interior scheme for Drop Coffee's first outpost in Abu Dhabi, designing its second cafe for the homegrown Emirati brand.

Pallavi Dean, Founder and Creative Director of Roar, commented about the happening: "We wanted Drop's Abu Dhabi location to have a different feel from the one we designed in Dubai last year while visually incorporating similar design references such as the materiality and subtle organic forms. We intentionally chose a serene, monochrome palette to infuse a sense of calm and create an environment in which guests can seamlessly meet, work and relax."

Dubai-based Dean believes her designs reflect the influences of being born in India, raised in Dubai and working for several years in London. Having trained as an architect and a sustainability specialist, she launched Pallavi Dean Interiors in 2013.

The studio was rebranded as Roar in 2018. An active member in the UAE design community, she writes for industry publications, assists with trade events and mentors students in the region. Formerly interior design professor at the American University of Sharjah, her aim is to incorporate practical and theoretical research into her designs.

Her portfolio includes more than 84 projects across the region, including SensAsia Spa at The Kempinski Hotel Dubai, offices for Takeda Pharma-

ceutical, Dubai, The Nursery of the Future, Dubai, and a string of private residences as well as an interactive lighting system designed in collaboration with Artemide for EuroLuce 2019.

She has won numerous accolades including Best of Year: Interior Designer at the Interior Design Awards 2021; Architecture Digest MEA's Designer of the Year Award 2020; CID Middle East's Interior Designer of the Year Award 2020; and Global Emerging Designer of the Year at the FRAME Awards 2019 in Amsterdam. Drop Coffee was founded by Emirati duo Mahmood Al Khamis and Ghanim Al Qassim, and is a new addition to Abu Dhabi's burgeoning coffee scene. It is a self-proclaimed "third wave coffee company" - a movement which considers

coffee as a craft rather than a commodity. With a team of baristas from seven different countries - including Argentina, Venezuela, South Africa and Uganda - speaking a total of 13 languages, its beans are roasted and brewed daily.

Arabic coffee in the United Arab Emirates is considered a symbol of the generosity attributed to the country's citizens. It represents an integral aspect of cordial hospitality, to the extent that it has become a national tradition. It is a symbol of unity that preserves social, political and cultural associations that have helped shape Emirati society into what it is today.

Muhammad Yusuf, Features Writer